

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 069355  
ORIGIN DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05  
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00  
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00  
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 /137 R

DRAFTED BY S/AR:AGJAMES/MW  
APPROVED BY S/AR:ELRICHARDSON  
D/LOS:ADBERLIND  
ARA/VE:

-----035037 180014Z /75

P R 172158Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069355

FOR AMBASSADOR VAKY FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PLOS, VE

SUBJECT: LOS - MESSAGE FOR AGUILAR

REF: CARACAS 1553

1. AGUILAR'S COMMENT ABOUT MY BEING UPSET WITH HIM BECAUSE  
OF HIS STAND ON AMERASINGHE AT THE FEBRUARY INTERSESSIONAL  
MEETING WAS MILD UNDERSTATEMENT. AGUILAR DOMINATED THE  
LATIN GROUP ON THE LAST DAYS OF THE MEETING AND PERSUADED  
THEM TO ADOPT AN UNCOMPROMISING POSITION ON AMERASINGHE  
CONTINUING AS PRESIDENT IN AN INDEPENDENT CAPACITY, ALLEGED-  
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PAGE 02 STATE 069355

LY ON GROUNDS OF PRINCIPLE, NAMELY, THAT FOR HIM TO DO SO  
WITHOUT BEING A MEMBER OF HIS NATIONAL DELEGATION WOULD SET  
A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR THE CONFERENCE AND THE UN SYSTEM.  
EVEN MORE INFURIATING WAS THE WAY HE PERSUADED THE LATIN  
GROUP TO TAKE A RIGID POSITION ON CONFERENCE PROCEDURES  
WHICH WOULD MAINTAIN THE VETO POWER OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIR-  
MEN OVER REVISION OF THE ICNT. THE LATIN ACTION FLEW IN THE

FACE OF A PRONOUNCED CONSENSUS WHICH HAD DEVELOPED DURING A SERIES OF INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD TAKE CHARGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND HAVE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FORMULATING, WITH THE ADVICE OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, CHANGES IN THE ICNT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE PLENARY.

2. THE CONSEQUENCE OF AGUILAR'S ACTIONS AND THE STANCE OF THE LATINS IS THAT THE CONFERENCE IS NOW FACED WITH THE STARK PROSPECT OF AN UNEDIFYING WRANGLE OVER THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK FOR THE SEVENTH SESSION WHICH COULD SERIOUSLY DELAY THE CONFERENCE GETTING QUICKLY DOWN TO NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DIFFICULT ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE. I CAN ONLY GUESS AT HIS MOTIVES. I DO NOT THINK HE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERS HIMSELF AS A SUCCESSOR TO AMERASINGHE, ALTHOUGH HIS CANDIDACY HAS BEEN SUGGESTED. I SUPPOSE HE FEELS SOME EXCESSIVE CONCERN ABOUT THE ABILITY OF THE LATIN COASTAL STATES TO FEND OFF THE DEMANDS OF THE LL/GDS AND TO PRESERVE THEIR GAINS IN RESPECT OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE WITHOUT THE FIRM VETO OF HIMSELF AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE. HE SEEMS TO HAVE ROPED IN THE SOVIETS. AS YOU MAY KNOW, THEY INVITED HIM TO MOSCOW DURING THE WINTER AND GOT FROM HIM WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE A COMMITMENT TO MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE TEXTS ON THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE WHICH THE RUSSIANS THINK ESSENTIAL. WHETHER AGUILAR IN FACT GAVE

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PAGE 03 STATE 069355

SUCH A COMMITMENT, I DOUBT BUT CANNOT BE SURE. IN ANY CASE THE RUSSIANS SWITCHED THEIR EARLIER POSITION AND BACKED AGUILAR ON THE PRESERVATION OF A COLLEGIAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD CALL FOR THE CONTINUED AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRMEN--IN EFFECT A VETO OVER CHANGES IN THE ICNT.

3. I APPRECIATE HAVING THE REPORT OF YOUR CONVERSATION AND YOUR COMMENTS. I THINK IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR ME TO FOLLOW YOUR CONVERSATION WITH A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO AGUILAR, AND WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD HAVE THE TEXT IN THE NEXT PARAGRAPH CONVEYED TO HIM.

4. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR ANDRES:

AMBASSADOR VAKY HAS CABLED ME ABOUT YOUR TALK WITH HIM LAST WEEK. I APPRECIATE YOUR CANDOR ABOUT THE REASONS FOR YOUR POSITION ON THE CONTINUATION OF SHIRLEY AMERASINGHE AS PRESIDENT IN AN INDEPENDENT CAPACITY. I TAKE YOUR POINT, ALTHOUGH AS YOU KNOW I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH THE ATTITUDE OF THE LATIN GROUP. I HOPE THE GOVERN-

MENT OF SRI LANKA WILL AGREE TO SHIRLEY BEING A MEMBER OF THE LOS DELEGATION. IF THEY DO SO, I TAKE IT THAT THE OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE OF YOUR COLLEAGUES WILL BE OVERCOME. I WAS PLEASED TO KNOW THAT YOU WILL ACCEPT ANYONE ON WHOM THE ASIAN GROUP AGREE, SHOULD SHIRLEY NOT, CONTRARY TO MY HOPE, BE ABLE TO CONTINUE.

I HAVE NOTED THE CONCERNS OF THE LATIN GROUP ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE NEXT SESSION. I THINK IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE THOSE CONCERNS IN A WAY WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT A SOLIDLY BASED CONSENSUS WHICH EMERGES FROM WORKING GROUPS WILL BE FAIRLY REFLECTED BY THE PRESIDENT IN ANY REVISIONS HE AND HIS ADVISERS, THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, DEVELOP AND THAT SUCH NEW FORMULA-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 069355

TIONS WILL BE OPENLY AND FREELY DISCUSSED IN PLENARY. YOU WILL SURELY AGREE THAT WE MUST SEE TO IT THAT THE NEXT SESSION GETS DOWN TO SUBSTANTIVE WORK QUICKLY. THERE IS MUCH TO DO, AND WE MUST MAKE THIS THE LAST MAJOR NEGOTIATING SESSION.

I AM GOING TO GENEVA NEXT WEEK TO BE ON HAND DURING THE MEETING OF THE GROUP OF 77 FOR SUCH INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AS MAY BE USEFUL AND CONVENIENT ON THE QUESTION OF THE PRESIDENCY AND THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK. A NUMBER OF OTHER COLLEAGUES NOT MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF 77 WILL ALSO BE PRESENT. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE THERE FOR I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE A GOOD TALK ABOUT THE WORK OF THIS NEXT SESSION.

WITH WARM REGARD, SINCERELY, ELLIOT.

END TEXT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW OF THE SEA, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 17 mar 1978  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PLOS, PDIP, VE, US, LOS, (RICHARDSON, ELLIOT L), (AGUILAR, ANDRES)  
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**Type:** TE  
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